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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :

v. :

CRIMINAL NO. 01-CR-260  
(Judge Kane)

DERRICK RUSSELL FELDER, :  
Defendant

**FILED**  
HARRISBURG, PA

JUN 10 2004

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

MARY E. D'ANDREA, CLERK  
Per [Signature]  
Deputy Clerk

CHANGE OF PLEA

Before: Hon. Yvette Kane, Judge

Date: July 24, 2002

Place: Courtroom No. 4  
Federal Building  
Harrisburg, Pa.

COUNSEL PRESENT:

WILLIAM A. BEHE, Assistant U.S. Attorney

For - Government

MATTHEW R. GOVER, Esquire

For - Defendant

Monica L. Zamiska, RPR  
Official Court Reporter

1 MR. BEHE: Your Honor, this is the matter of the  
2 United States of America v. Derrick Russell Felder which is  
3 at Criminal Docket No. 01-260. Mr. Felder is present before  
4 you with counsel Mr. Gover, and now is the time and place set  
5 by the Court for Mr. Felder to withdraw his plea of not  
6 guilty as to Count 1 of the indictment and enter a plea of  
7 guilty to that count pursuant to a plea agreement entered  
8 into with the United States.

9 THE COURT: Good morning, Mr. Gover.

10 MR. GOVER: Good morning, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Mr. Felder, did you hear what Mr. Behe  
12 said?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

14 THE COURT: Is that correct?

15 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

16 THE COURT: You're going to enter a guilty plea to  
17 Count 1 of the indictment this morning?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

19 THE COURT: Before I can allow you to do that I  
20 need to ask you a series of questions about this offense and  
21 about you. The purpose of my questions is to make sure that  
22 you understand all the rights that you have in connection  
23 with this charge and also to make sure that you understand  
24 the consequences of entering a guilty plea here. In order to  
25 participate in these proceedings and answer the questions

1 that I pose to you you're going to have to waive your right  
2 against self-incrimination. Of course, you don't have to do  
3 that. You are charged in a criminal case, and you have a  
4 right to refuse to answer any questions put to you by the  
5 authorities about the charge, but to participate in the plea  
6 agreement you would have to waive your right against  
7 self-incrimination and answer all the questions that I put to  
8 you under oath completely and honestly. And, of course, you  
9 can be prosecuted for perjury if you give a false answer to  
10 anything that I pose to you now. Do you understand that?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

12 THE COURT: Is that how you want to proceed?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

14 THE COURT: Miss Kennedy, would you place the  
15 defendant under oath.

16 DERRICK RUSSELL FELDER, called as a witness, being  
17 duly sworn or affirmed, testified as follows:

18 THE COURT: Mr. Felder, how old are you?

19 THE DEFENDANT: Twenty-one.

20 THE COURT: Twenty-one?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

22 THE COURT: Did you finish high school?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

24 THE COURT: Did you have any college after that?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

1 THE COURT: How much?

2 THE DEFENDANT: A year.

3 THE COURT: One year of college. Where did you go?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Cheyney University.

5 THE COURT: Cheyney?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

7 THE COURT: You read and write English then?

8 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

9 THE COURT: Is English your first language?

10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

11 THE COURT: Are you undergoing any psychiatric or  
12 psychological counseling right now?

13 THE DEFENDANT: No.

14 THE COURT: How about any drugs or alcohol, have  
15 you taken any drugs or alcohol before coming to court this  
16 morning?

17 THE DEFENDANT: No.

18 THE COURT: Are you on any kind of prescription  
19 medication?

20 THE DEFENDANT: No.

21 THE COURT: Do you feel that you have had an  
22 adequate opportunity to consult with Mr. Gover about the  
23 charges and that you understand the charges in this case?

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

25 THE COURT: The count that you are going to be

1 pleading to was brought to the court by way of indictment.  
2 It alleges that on or about June 8 or 9, 2001 in  
3 Chambersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, which is within  
4 the Middle District of Pennsylvania, that you, the defendant,  
5 Derrick Russell Felder, did intentionally and knowingly  
6 unlawfully possess with the intent to manufacture and  
7 distribute 5 grams or more of cocaine base, also known as  
8 crack cocaine, a Schedule 2 controlled substance, all of  
9 which was contained within 100 individual glass vials and 17  
10 individual ziplock bags, and that you did these things in  
11 violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).  
12 That's the charge. Do you have any questions about it?

13 THE DEFENDANT: No.

14 THE COURT: Mr. Felder, do you understand that in  
15 connection with this charge you do have a right to a full  
16 jury trial? You don't have to enter a guilty plea here. You  
17 could come to this courtroom and have a trial on this count  
18 and the other counts of the indictment where you and your  
19 lawyer would participate in the selection of 12 jurors who  
20 would come here to hear your case.

21 When the jurors were sworn, I would advise them  
22 that you enjoy the presumption of innocence; that is, that as  
23 you sit in this courtroom they have to presume that you're an  
24 innocent man, that it would be for Mr. Behe to prove each and  
25 every element of this charge and the other charges in the

1 indictment beyond a reasonable doubt before you could be  
2 convicted of them at trial.

3 Because the burden would be his, you wouldn't have  
4 to do anything at trial. You could call witnesses, I would  
5 issue subpoenas for you, and you could testify yourself if  
6 you wanted to, but because you enjoy the right against  
7 self-incrimination that we already talked about you wouldn't  
8 have to do any of those things, you could just wait for Mr.  
9 Behe to try to prove his case, and then it would go to the  
10 jury, and they would be called on to decide whether or not  
11 you are guilty of the crimes charged.

12 I would advise the jurors that each and every one  
13 of them would have to vote to find you guilty before you  
14 could be found guilty at trial; that is, there would have to  
15 be a unanimous finding of guilt, every juror would have to  
16 agree that you are guilty of the crime charged. Do you have  
17 any questions about any of that?

18 THE DEFENDANT: No.

19 THE COURT: Do you understand that at trial you'd  
20 have a right to challenge any of the evidence Mr. Behe would  
21 present, your lawyer would cross examine all of his  
22 witnesses, you could challenge any physical evidence that he  
23 presents, any documents or any evidence that was seized in  
24 connection with this case, and you would also have the right  
25 to challenge the voluntariness of any statements that you

1 might have given in connection with this charge? Do you  
2 understand all of that?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

4 THE COURT: Do you understand that if you enter a  
5 guilty plea today, you're going to be waiving all of those  
6 rights that we just talked about?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Right.

8 THE COURT: You're going to waive the right to file  
9 any pretrial motions in connection with your case challenging  
10 any of the evidence, you're going to waive the right to have  
11 that jury trial here in the courtroom, and, of course, you  
12 waive the right to appeal the verdict of the jury if they  
13 find you guilty. Any questions about any of that?

14 THE DEFENDANT: No.

15 THE COURT: Mr. Behe, would you state for the  
16 record the essential terms of the plea agreement.

17 MR. BEHE: Yes, Your Honor. In exchange for the  
18 defendant agreeing to plead guilty to Count 1 of the  
19 indictment the United States at time of sentencing will move  
20 for the dismissal of the remaining counts of the indictment.  
21 Mr. Felder understands by agreeing to plead guilty to Count 1  
22 of the indictment he faces a term of imprisonment of up to 40  
23 years and a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 5  
24 years. He also understands that he faces a potential fine of  
25 up to \$2 million, a special assessment in the amount of \$100

1 and a term of supervised release to be imposed by the Court  
2 that will be served at the conclusion of and in addition to  
3 whatever term of imprisonment that he would face. The  
4 defendant has indicated to the United States that he accepts  
5 responsibility for this offense, and in exchange for his  
6 agreeing to plead guilty to Count 1 the United States has  
7 agreed that, if appropriate, it would recommend to the Court  
8 a 2 level reduction for acceptance of responsibility.

9 The defendant has also indicated that he wishes to  
10 cooperate, and if his cooperation amounts to what is deemed  
11 substantial assistance, then the United States again, if  
12 appropriate, would ask the Court to depart below whatever  
13 applicable guideline range or mandatory minimum term of  
14 imprisonment that might apply.

15 If Your Honor notices in the plea agreement, Mr.  
16 Felder and counsel have crossed out paragraphs 22 through 23  
17 on pages 8 and 9 which in essence detail all the -- the  
18 various ways in which the United States would expect Mr.  
19 Felder to cooperate, and it seems kind of a paradox, he's  
20 agreed to cooperate, yet he has taken that out, that is as a  
21 result of the fact that Mr. Felder is under investigation in  
22 the Eastern District of Philadelphia, and to the extent that  
23 they might require him to do something or he might decide  
24 that he wants to contest the charges down there, he didn't  
25 want to be in a position where it may appear that he's in



1 violation of the plea agreement by not engaging in one of  
2 these forms of cooperation, and so we did not disagree with  
3 him removing that. He has engaged in off the record proffers  
4 with the United States on a number of matters, so it's just a  
5 question of whatever happens in the eastern district he did  
6 not want to have the plea agreement be interpreted as  
7 obligating him to cooperate with them when he may be  
8 contesting that, but other than that, I believe those are the  
9 essential terms of the plea agreement.

10 THE COURT: Mr. Felder, is that the agreement as  
11 you understand it?

12 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

13 THE COURT: There is a written agreement on file  
14 with the Court. It contains a lot of other provisions that  
15 we haven't discussed here. Did you have a chance to review  
16 all of those --

17 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I did.

18 THE COURT: -- provisions as well? You agreed to  
19 each and every one of the provisions that are in that  
20 agreement?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

22 THE COURT: Any questions about any of them now for  
23 your lawyer or for me?

24 THE DEFENDANT: No.

25 THE COURT: Miss Kennedy is going to show you on

1 page 14 there is a signature line at the end of the  
2 agreement, it's not dated, but did you sign the agreement?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I did.

4 THE COURT: Your lawyer has dated it and signed it  
5 beneath your name on June 19, 2002. Is that when you signed  
6 it, --

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

8 THE COURT: -- at the same time? Did you sign the  
9 agreement willingly?

10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

11 THE COURT: Did anybody threaten, coerce you or  
12 make any promises to you that are not in the agreement?

13 THE DEFENDANT: No, they did not.

14 THE COURT: You had a chance to review all of the  
15 provisions before you signed it?

16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

17 THE COURT: Do you understand, as Mr. Behe has  
18 noted, that the agreement is between you and the government,  
19 not you and the Court? So he's going to make certain  
20 recommendations, we don't know what all of them will be yet.  
21 One of them sounds like it will be that you receive credit  
22 for acceptance of responsibility, and he may also make a  
23 recommendation that the Court engage in what we call a  
24 downward departure, that I sentence you to less than the term  
25 that I would otherwise impose in your case because of your

1 assistance to the government. He may make that  
2 recommendation. You're obviously relying on his good faith  
3 that if you help him, that he'll make the recommendation, but  
4 I can't compel him to make that recommendation. Sometimes  
5 there are disputes about whether or not you have helped  
6 enough and the government doesn't want to make that  
7 recommendation. I can't make him. It's really on his good  
8 faith that he's going to do that.

9 And the other part of that is that he may make the  
10 recommendation, and I may decide based on the legal standards  
11 that apply to downward departure that you are not entitled to  
12 it and I won't give it to you. Another option that could  
13 happen here is he'll make the recommendation, I'll agree that  
14 you're entitled to a downward departure, but I won't agree on  
15 the amount of consideration that you are entitled to have;  
16 that is, it's possible that he would recommend a certain  
17 number of months or years in reduction in your sentence but I  
18 would not agree with that amount. I would agree to a  
19 downward departure but not that much. So those are all the  
20 possibilities that could happen with this plea agreement. Do  
21 you understand all of that?

22 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

23 THE COURT: Do you have any questions about that?

24 THE DEFENDANT: No, I don't.

25 THE COURT: Has anybody promised you what your

1 sentence would be here?

2 THE DEFENDANT: No.

3 THE COURT: I'm sure you have had an opportunity to  
4 talk to your lawyer about sentencing guidelines and how they  
5 apply to your case.

6 THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

7 THE COURT: You understand the mandatory minimum,  
8 and I'm sure he explained to you that the probation office is  
9 going to do a very thorough investigation of this offense and  
10 of you. They're going to make a report about your financial  
11 history, your criminal history, your social history,  
12 everything about you will be in that report. You'll get to  
13 see it even before I see it, and you'll have 14 days to  
14 comment on the report, to correct anything that's in the  
15 report and even to offer information that you think would  
16 reflect favorably on you and you would want the Court to  
17 consider. Then you'll come back to court, and then I'll see  
18 the report after it's been revised based on your comments.

19 It will contain not only all of that information  
20 but a calculation of the sentencing guidelines that apply to  
21 your case, and in most cases I will have to sentence you  
22 within the guideline range that applies to your case, and  
23 that's how we get into the discussion about downward  
24 departure.

25 THE DEFENDANT: All right.

1 THE COURT: In some cases I could upwardly depart  
2 from the guidelines. If I found that your crime was  
3 particularly aggravated or there was special harm to the  
4 victim or there were other circumstances that would warrant  
5 it under the law, I could give you more than the guideline  
6 range, but in this case there is a possibility that I would  
7 give you less than the guideline range. But the important  
8 thing is that right now nobody knows what your sentence is  
9 going to be because we don't know how any of this is going to  
10 turn out. All we know is that there is a mandatory minimum,  
11 which we have already discussed, and there is a maximum  
12 penalty of 40 years, so we know that your sentence is going  
13 to lie somewhere between those two numbers but nobody knows  
14 where. Any questions about any of that?

15 THE DEFENDANT: No.

16 THE COURT: Do you understand, Mr. Felder, that by  
17 entering a guilty plea today you subject yourself to any  
18 lawful sentence that I might impose in this case?

19 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

20 THE COURT: Do you understand also that parole has  
21 been abolished in the federal system, so when you're  
22 sentenced to a period of incarceration, you're not going to  
23 be released early on parole, and once you are released from  
24 imprisonment you're going to be subject to a term of  
25 supervised release as well?

1 THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

2 THE COURT: And, finally, do you understand that if  
3 you don't like the sentence you draw in this case, you'll not  
4 be able to withdraw your guilty plea? Once you enter a  
5 guilty plea you will subject yourself to any lawful sentence,  
6 and you won't be able to withdraw the plea if you don't like  
7 the sentence you draw.

8 THE DEFENDANT: Correct.

9 THE COURT: Okay, no questions about any of that?

10 THE DEFENDANT: No.

11 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Behe, is there a  
12 factual basis for the charge?

13 MR. BEHE: Yes, Your Honor, if I may, in this  
14 matter this was a case that was essentially referred to,  
15 adopted or accepted by the Drug Enforcement Administration  
16 upon referral from the Chambersburg Police Department. On  
17 June 8 of 2001 the Chambersburg police attempted through the  
18 use of a cooperating individual to purchase about a hundred  
19 dollars worth of crack cocaine from an individual that was  
20 known to this cooperating individual only as "D". The  
21 individual who showed up at the cooperating individual's home  
22 to sell the crack cocaine, the cooperating individual knew  
23 only as "D", was the defendant Derrick Felder. That sale did  
24 not take place, however, because as the cooperating  
25 individual told the police later, Mr. Felder was nervous

1 about the circumstances and things that just did not allow  
2 for the sale to go forward, but the cooperating individual  
3 told the police that he knew this "D" as someone who was  
4 selling crack cocaine.

5 Several hours later, in the early morning hours now  
6 of June 9, the police were able to locate Mr. Felder at a  
7 local motel or hotel, and they executed a traffic stop of the  
8 vehicle that he was in when he left the parking lot. Mr.  
9 Felder at that time presented false identification to the  
10 police, identifying himself as Russell Woodson.

11 A search warrant was obtained for his room at the  
12 Sheraton Four Points, and during the search police recovered  
13 multiple ziplock bags and little glass vials containing crack  
14 cocaine, a Browning 9 millimeter Lugar was located between  
15 the mattress and box springs. Approximately \$900 in United  
16 States currency was recovered during the search of Mr.  
17 Felder's vehicle, and the 117 pieces of crack cocaine that  
18 were recovered and separated from the different containers,  
19 the packaging material and the glass vials was sent off to  
20 the Pennsylvania State Police laboratory for weighing and  
21 analysis. It was determined that these 117 pieces were  
22 indeed crack cocaine; that is, cocaine base, and the total  
23 weight was 13. -- 13.5 grams.

24 THE COURT: Mr. Felder, -- go ahead.

25 MR. GOVER: The 13.5 grams was never shared with

1 us, Your Honor, I was under the impression it was more, so I  
2 was just commenting to my client about that.

3 THE COURT: Mr. Felder, is that what happened here?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

5 THE COURT: Is there anything about what Mr. Behe  
6 has stated that you want to correct for the record?

7 THE DEFENDANT: No.

8 THE COURT: When I sentence you in this case, I'm  
9 going to assume all of those facts are true.

10 THE DEFENDANT: Okay.

11 THE COURT: Is it still your desire to enter a  
12 guilty plea then?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, it is.

14 THE COURT: The Court finds that the defendant is  
15 acting voluntarily, that no force, threats or promises apart  
16 from the plea agreement have been made to him, that he  
17 understands the rights and consequences of entering a guilty  
18 plea and that the plea has a basis in fact and contains all  
19 of the elements of the crime charged. Accordingly the Court  
20 accepts the defendant's guilty plea on Count 1 of the  
21 indictment and defers sentencing pending a report of the  
22 probation office.

23 Is there anything else for the record, counsel?

24 MR. BEHE: No, Your Honor.

25 MR. GOVER: No.



1 THE COURT: We'll be in recess.

2 (The proceedings concluded.)

3  
4 I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence  
5 of the court are contained fully and accurately in the notes  
6 taken by me on the change of plea of the within cause and  
7 that this is a correct transcript of the same.

8 Monica L. Zamiska

9 Monica L. Zamiska, RPR

10 Official Court Reporter  
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